

DRAFT

GYIBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Jackson, Wyoming

Antler Motel

MINUTES

Executive Committee Present:

- John Baughman, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Carole Bolin, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
- Don Bosman, Wyoming State Veterinarian
- Dan Huff, National Park Service
- Owen James, Montana State Veterinarian
- Lonn Kuck, Wildlife Game & Research Manager, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game
- Steve Lewis, Region Three Supervisor, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Larry Ludke, U. S. Geological Survey - Biological Resource Division
- Phil Mamer, Idaho Department of Agriculture, Div. of Animal Industries, (representing Bob Hillman)
- Bob Nervig, U. S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Veterinary Services
- Bill Noblitt, U. S. Forest Service (representing Jack Blackwell)
- Terry Terrell, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6
- Staff:
- Ramona Hutchinson, National Park Service
- Becky Russell, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Audience:
- Tom Bills, U. S. Forest Service, Jackson, WY
- Ted Boling, Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Program, Washington, DC
- Robert Bradley, D.V.M., Idaho Cattle Association, Blackfoot, ID
- Wayne Brewster, Yellowstone National Park, National Park Service
- Patrick Collins, U. S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS, Washington, DC
- David Dittloff, Wyoming Wildlife Fund, Cheyenne, WY
- Kristen Dolan, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO
- Rick Frost, Intermountain Field Area, National Park Service, Denver, CO
- Jeff Gearino, Casper Star-Tribune, Green River, WY
- Peter Gogan, Biological Research Division, United States Geological Survey
- Mark Heckert, Intertribal Bison Cooperative, Rapid City, SD
- Diane Katzenberger, External Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, CO
- Andrea Loccoco, The Fund for Animals, Jackson, WY
- Sean McGuire, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO
- Jennifer Potratz, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, MT
- Art Reese, Wyoming Game and Fish, Cheyenne, WY

- Barry Rieswig, National Elk Refuge, Jackson, WY
- Jack Rhyan, USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services, Fort Collins, CO
- Tom Roffe, USGS Biological Resources Division, Bozeman, MT
- Bob Schiller, Grand Teton National Park, National Park Service
- Darrel Short, Bureau of Land Management, Evanston, WY
- Mike Philo, USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services, Bozeman, MT
- Steve Torbit, National Wildlife Federation, Boulder, CO
- Doug Woody, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Afton, WY
- Tom Thorne, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Cheyenne, WY
- Tom Watts, Jicarilla Game and Fish Department, Dulce, NM

Announcements

Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Commission (GYIBC) Chairman Dan Huff introduced Kristen Dolan, an undergraduate student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Wyoming Game and Fish has a video crew in town and has been doing some filming of deer trapping and will be filming vaccinations today. They will come by for a few minutes to film the meeting.

Bob Nervig will be moving in June to Raleigh, NC, Dr. Bill Bish will be moving to Denver to represent APHIS at GYBIC meetings.

Terry Terrell welcomed Diane Katzenberger as the new head of the Information and Education Subcommittee.

Technical Subcommittee Report - Jack Rhyan

APHIS, Veterinary Services Survey

Mike Philo followed up on the Veterinary Services Survey first presented at the November 1997 GYIBC meeting. He restated the Veterinary Services program goal of assessing what the current and projected 3-5 year GYIBC needs are. His office received little or no response to the survey and the January deadline for compiling results was not met. Mike re-submitted the original survey to the Committee and requested completed surveys from members by the end of the day. Chairman Huff initiated the ensuing discussion by echoing the response of many agency members who thought they had completed the survey. He noted that he had forwarded the response to operational staff and promised to follow up. Wyoming Game and Fish also completed and returned their survey.

Lonn Kuck questioned if the survey would best serve the needs of the GYIBC or of individual agencies. Don Bosman pointed out the possibility of two responses, one addressing GYIBC needs and the other addressing individual needs. When Tom Thorne completed the survey for his agency he noticed the survey did not indicate what agency was responding.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Huff requested that both official and non-official Committee members work to formulate their responses and forward them to the Technical Committee who would compile the results and forward them to Mike.

Interspecies Transmission Paper - Mike Philo

The paper was presented at the November 1997 Technical Subcommittee meeting. To date, Don Bridgewater incorporated comments from two Committee members. He also received a comment from a member of the public. In addition, the Subcommittee meeting generated additional comments.

ACTION ITEM: Mike Philo requested more time to incorporate comments during the interim between Committee meetings and will present the results at the May 1998 Executive Committee meeting.

Brucellosis Herd Assessment - Tom Thorne

The Brucellosis Herd Assessment table is an attempt to identify an action plan for herd management. Extensive discussion by the Technical Subcommittee resulted in the identification of 25 herd units which then were ranked and assigned a score by herd units. The table differs from the previous table distributed in November. Rank is now present for all the categories. This addition should correct an apparent flaw in the previous table, which showed some Montana elk ranking as high as the feedground elk herds. Two of the pages contain instructions of how to fill out the table.

ACTION ITEM: As the action plan evolves, Tom Thorne emphasized cooperation and input from both the public and federal agencies. Responses should be analyzed on a state by state basis. This may be accomplished in a matter of hours with a short meeting or conference call. Chairman Huff and Bill Noblitt expressed concerns about including the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) compliance costs in the action plan. Terry Terrell pointed out that the appropriate NEPA process will not be identified until an action plan is implemented. A few individual herd units, for instance the Piney Herd, will require a NEPA process. Ideally the process should be able to anticipate NEPA needs. Bill Noblitt felt that further explanation down the road would give us that direction. Terry Terrell saw the plan as a way to begin to address the process and asked if it would apply to smaller NEPA needs.

Responding to the discussion, Chairman Huff suggested an approach on a herd by herd basis, and later, when we get into the actual implementation, may be a programmatic process that would allow for NEPA considerations. Tom Thorne pointed out that the list was made the day before and at this time it would be unlikely to predict NEPA needs.

Recent And Current Research - Tom Thorne

Assignment given to the Subcommittees was more difficult than initially thought. The plan was to give a brief description of each project and identify project leaders on an annual basis. Both committees discussed possibilities of how it can be more useful in the future.

Chairman Huff recommended that it be submitted in a format for the GYIBC Web Page. Terry Terrell was impressed with the results, recognizing the amount of work it took to produce the report. Chairman Huff asked why funding was not identified and if we could obtain the figures. Terry Terrell pointed out that the Executive Committee did not ask for them. Tom Thorne said he would like to provide the report for the Subcommittees to work on for next quarter and have a finished product, including budget for next year. However, if the information was needed now he could send a letter to the researchers requesting the information now.

Chairman Huff thought that it was a logical question to know how much money has been expended for research to date. Bill Noblitt felt that it was imperative to obtain the budget information. Everyone on the Committee felt that some guidelines regarding the format were important and offered their input.

ACTION ITEM: After listening to the Executive Committee discussion about guidelines, Jack Rhyhan listed the revised report guidelines, which include: initiation and completion date, yearly budget, in kind services, salary and benefits. The Committee agreed to this holistic approach and looks forward to the application of these guidelines to the report.

Citing the need to incorporate management and budget with research, Don Bosman recommended that further discussion be postponed until the budget discussion later in the afternoon.
New Business Of The Technical Committee

Establishment Of New Feedgrounds - Jack Ryhan

Jack Rhyhan acquainted the Executive Committee with the establishment of new feedgrounds in Idaho. Technical Committee concerns about the developing situation led to a request on the part of the Executive Committee to draft a letter of resolution to member agencies opposing the establishment of new feedgrounds.

Lonn Kuck acknowledged the evolving, sensitive political situation and asked for clarification on which feedground Jack Ryhan was referring to Ashton or Driggs, reminding him that there was feeding and at the one in Driggs last year as well. Chairman Huff asked if any serological profiles existed in Driggs or Ashton, Phil Mamer wondered if there was any testing. Lonn replied there was no sero response and that testing would take place. Chairman Huff wanted to know the size of the herds and noted that the feeding seems to be a voluntary program. Lonn stated determining the size has become a perpetual problem as herds migrate in and out of Wyoming and Idaho. Phil wondered if any cattle were in the feedgrounds.

Don Bosman recognized the situation with many animals in the area but said it was not necessarily a question of surveillance, rather a question of transmission. He agreed with the idea of sending a letter to member agencies but wondered if such action might be perceived as intrusion or interference. Chairman Huff wondered what purposed the feeding served. He had originally thought there were separate elk and cattle feeding grounds. Lonn replied with the growing elk herds it is not possible to separate them from the cattle and this adds to the complexity which includes the many people and/or publics involved.

Chairman Huff asked Lonn what the GYIBC could do to help. Phil Mamer asked for a letter, and reminded the group that one of the earlier things they had agreed on was no more feedgrounds. Chairman Huff expressed concern about how an unsolicited response directed at one agency would be perceived. Lonn agreed, stating his agency did not need to be reminded what good management is and that such a letter would not do his superiors any good in the current situation. Don Bosman moved that the Executive Committee send a letter to the Governor of Idaho with copies to the two Idaho agencies as an educational gesture to remind them of the earlier resolution.

Terry Terrell seconded the motion. She reminded the group that the Governor of Idaho was one of the original signatories on the resolution. The voice vote passed. Idaho abstained. In the subsequent discussion Tom Thorne mentioned the establishment of a feedground at Yellowstone National Park (the Reese Creek holding facility), reinforcing the idea that a letter

should go to all members. John Baughman suggested an amendment to the resolution, in line with what the Executive Committee recommended to all the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Don Bosman wondered if it should be limited to 5 signatures and Tom Thorne restated that it should go to all members and he recommended a cover letter based on the resolution because it would not hurt to remind everyone. Chairman Huff wondered if a reference should be added that applies to individual situations because different locations may have a different set of circumstances.

Lonn reminded the Committee that Idaho had refrained from voting on the original resolution, feeling they would be safe with or without a "scolding" and there was no intention of removing either elk or cattle. Art Reese offered to have a copy of the original resolution faxed to the Committee. Chairman Huff asked the Committee if there were any concerns about being too general. Mike Philo suggested a press release as a means of not being "in the face" of the agencies. John Baughman continued to support the letter, just as a reminder and perhaps as a tool for governors to use in the future.

Before Chairman Huff asked for the voice vote he pointed out to the group that this action could be the threshold for other actions of GYIBC member institutions which would be responded to by the entire committee. Don Bosman re-affirmed that the central purpose was to "educationally remind" member agencies of the resolution.

ACTION ITEM: Bob Nervig asked that the letter be drafted. (Sent 4/30/98)

Change the Frequency of GYIBC Meetings

Jack Rhyan voiced the Technical Committee recommendation that the GYIBC meet every 4 months rather than every 3 months. There is a general feeling that we are becoming more efficient. Chairman Huff felt that the Technical Committee should get together as often as they need to get the job done. Terry Terrell felt there was good logic in meeting at the same time as Executive Committee and Bob Nervig pointed out that our charter establishes the minimum meeting intervals. Lonn Luck remembered that the groups were only meeting 3 times a year and the current number of meetings might be a little too frequent.

Terry Terrell moved that for the time being the meeting schedule be changed to meet every four months from every three months. The new meeting interval would convene after the next meeting.

Lonn Luck seconded.

Bob Nervig suggested sticking to the scheduled May meeting due to the budget discussion. Also, John Baughman spoke of possible attendance by the state governors.

Definition of a Safe and Efficacious Vaccine - Terry Kreeger

Terry Kreeger presented the revised definition of a safe and efficacious vaccine as requested by the Executive Committee. The changes in the document have been underlined and include: "use of vaccine is limited to females, a clarification of adverse affect, symptoms are now listed as listlessness, anorexia, depression and arthritis."

Don Bosman questioned the use of the word 'delivery.' Terry Terrell asked how the phrase 'not a full term delivery' might be used instead of abortion. Terry Kreeger pointed out that the key idea

should be that the calf is infected with the 'challenge strain.' Carole Bolin hesitated at the use of this definition of abortion in the document and wondered why we need to use the term 'abortion.' Terry Kreeger responded that somehow the calf must be included in the definition to set the stage for the rest of the document. Carole suggested using 'delivery of an infected calf.' Don Bosman agreed and suggested we might use wording to indicate an 'infection event' rather than an 'abortion event.' Other terms to replace the word 'abortion' were suggested during the discussion. They include 'abnormal birth event,' 'infection of host' and 'infection of birthing materials.' Don Bosman pointed out that we are first talking about an 'infection event,' then birth; are we looking for fetal infection? He suggested we say 'protection of adult and fetus.' Carole thought the placenta should also be included. Terry Kreeger pointed out that was not part of the intention of the vaccine. He suggested under adult efficacy protection of the mother and fetus, we should say 'calfhood infection.' What we strive for is both an uninfected mother and calf. Terry Terrell suggested using 'fetus infection' since both the fetus and the calf are involved. Chairman Huff suggested that Kreeger try to use the word 'abortion' in a very classic sense. Following Dan's idea, Kreeger referred to the wording in the first sentence of the document and suggested rephrasing it to say 'infected calf' instead of 'reproductive' or 'repeated abortion.' Chairman Huff then asked what word Kreeger would use in the second sentence on the second page instead of 'abortion.' Kreeger thought we should stick with what Dr. Olsen came up with originally in terms of use and intent of the word 'abortion.' At that point, Chairman Huff suggested we cease trying to define 'abortion.'

A discussion then began on how the loss of calves or fetuses affect the population of the herds. Chairman Huff suggested using neo-natal population numbers. Tom Roffe pointed out that even though the unborn fetuses are not part of the population, their loss has an additive effect on the herd population. The question then became how to measure a reduction in population and, in terms of the population what would be considered safe or unsafe; in other words, what reduction would be considered significant? The question was also raised whether this should take place by conducting a safety test or if estimates based on models would be enough. Terry Kreeger suggested defining the measurement of population potential, and requested that it be addressed in the next draft.

Wayne Brewster suggested that the document should also address another measurable safety factor of the vaccine, specifically, the potential of the vaccine to induce abortion. Don Bosman pointed out that the concern would not be abortion, rather the concern would be fetal death. Terry Kreeger brought up that Dr. Olsen was trying to convey the idea of an infected calf. Don Bosman felt that too much was being lumped under abortion and we need to differentiate between abortion, delivery, and infection.

A few more comments of note were made before the discussion wrapped up. Tom Thorne would like to add a caveat regarding vaccination programs for free-ranging wildlife. Don Bosman had a problem with the word 'required' in Tom's statement. Chairman Huff thought that there must be a technical definition for safe and efficacious and it must be stated up front, within the first or second sentence of the document. Based on the fact that the following statement 'all minimal ages-at minimum dose' would not be valid until the study of the vaccine is complete, Carole suggested the text be changed to 'Efficacy should include animals of minimal recommended age and maximum recommended age at the minimal recommended dosage.'

Jicarilla Apache, Horse Lake Mesa Game Park - Tom Watts

Tom Watts of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Reservation gave a presentation on the elk and bison herd brucellosis testing and management strategies in the Horse Lake Mesa Game Park in

northern New Mexico. Among their findings was the fact that the card and plate tests were unreliable as well as the CF test. The PCFIA was the key to removing brucellosis from the herd. The test became the standard for the reactor and the Game Park was able to establish its own standard for a reactor. Some recommendations for feeding ground management include proper division and rotation of pastures, and keeping feed off the ground, perhaps incorporating the use of pellet feed.

Information and Education Subcommittee Report

Patrick Collins, the Chief of Public Affairs for APHIS was introduced. Terry Terrell also introduced the new chairperson of the Information and Education Subcommittee, Diane Katzenberger.

Based on discussions during the previous two days by both committees Diane Katzenberger felt the first order of business was to obtain funding for the GYIBC. She suggested several ideas to the Executive Committee for discussion including:

- A short video on the work of the GYIBC and an accompanying briefing package. This would be useful since Diane Katzenberger will be in Washington DC on a detail in a few weeks and could arrange the briefings.
- Conduct a membership drive to increase the number of participants on the Information and Education Committee.
- Prepare a news release to re-iterate salient points about the GYIBC.
- Produce a Fact Sheet about the GYIBC and include short biographical sketches of the Committee members.
- Edit and put up the GYIBC Web page. The page will be on the NPS server and Tom Bills will make it available to Committee members for a 2-week comment period.

ACTION ITEM: Mona Hutchinson will ask Dawn Carey to forward the GYIBC web page to Tom Bills. (Completed 3/4/98)

Diane Katzenberger then introduced Tom Bills of the USFS, who introduced a '30-minute video titled "When the Buffalo Roam". The video was produced by a Jackson television station and released just before Christmas of 1997. It came about as a result of last year's Yellowstone bison dilemma and is compiled of bits and pieces from the previous year's news. Copies of the video are available from Patrick Long, Storyteller Pictures; (307)733-8080; for \$25.00 each. After viewing the video, discussion by the Executive Committee revolved around concerns about the impact of the material, its target audience, the accuracy and consequent polemics. John Baughman pointed out that the video did nothing to increase understanding about brucellosis. Diane Katzenberger agreed and asked the Committee what would be a possible audience for a GYIBC video. Chairman Huff replied that he would like to see a very active public involvement program within the Greater Yellowstone Area. However, he felt that before any money was spent the Committee would have to come up with some sort of process.

In an effort to discern the needs of the Committee, Diane Katzenberger outlined several different possibilities of how a 5-minute GYIBC informational video could be presented. She envisioned taking the video to Washington, DC, calling people to inform them of the issues, then scheduling a meeting, showing the video and presenting a briefing packet. Phil Mamer asked if this had been done before. Diane Katzenberger used this format effectively last spring to illuminate the

situation in North Dakota following the flooding. She thought the visceral issues connected with the GYIBC would be equally effective. Both she and Terry Terrell pointed out that while this approach is educational, it is not lobbying. Phil Mamer asked about the cost of the video. Diane Katzenberger estimated \$2,000, provided Wyoming Game and Fish would donate time to do the editing. Tom Roffe thought the cost might be closer to \$6,000 - \$8,000 if we really focused on the issues. Diane Katzenberger suggested that perhaps at this stage, with limited time and money the message we can get across is that it is an emotional issue. Her experience has shown that the audience would not listen to something very long.

Chairman Huff made a motion that the Executive Committee asks the Information and Education Subcommittee to look for some options as far as producing a video; including cost, sources and message content.

Seconded by Phil Mamer.

Chairman Huff suggested the Information & Education Subcommittee explore some options with the company who produced "When the Buffalo Roam". Bob Nervig understood the video would include information on who the GYIBC is and its accomplishments, but he also wondered what budget elements the Executive Committee would include. Don Bosman and Diane Katzenberger both agreed that the Executive Committee must provide the Information & Education Committee with some very clear ideas of what the needs are; especially in regards to whom the information would be pitched to. Chairman Huff suggested that the Information & Education Committee look at the action plan for analysis and options to see where the video would fit in. Diane's perspective was if we are talking about the public as an audience, then we are talking about something very nebulous.

Larry Ludke and Phil Mamer expressed some concern that the original intent of the discussion had gone from promoting the GYIBC to a request for funding. Diane Katzenberger agreed, adding that compounding factors included the problem that the Information & Education Committee is very small, and there might not be time or money right now. Larry suggested we might not even need a video. Steve Lewis thought we could produce a fact sheet for each group to serve the immediate needs. Chairman Huff reminded the group that earlier in the discussion consensus had been reached that a video could not be done in a month or two. Diane Katzenberger deferred to the Executive Committee, saying it is really up to them to decide what they need. The intention of the Information & Education Committee is to help the Executive Committee with its immediate needs. Don Bosman felt that waiting until May for a proposal would take too long, and besides we may be going about this backwards, we should discuss the budget first so that we might know how much money would be available for a video. Chairman Huff pointed out that Phil's original motion was for a video to support our request for a budget. Chairman Huff asked for a perspective from the audience. Tom Thorne felt that based on discussion among the Technical Committee they could help come up with a 5-7 minute presentation. The subcommittee could assist with a proposal via phone calls and e-mail. Jack Ryhan thought we should give the Information & Education Subcommittee their head and let them do it. Tom Roffe felt we could meet Bosman's concerns about timeliness. Rick Frost echoed the timeliness concerns, saying that the Information & Education Subcommittee was hoping to go 'to the hill' and provide educational materials within this time frame. Steve Torbit felt we needed to show Congress some of the controversy, and the desire on the part of the public to have a solution. Terry Terrell thought we might show both cattle and buffalo being killed to underscore how people's livelihood as well as wildlife management is affected. This discussion ended with Dan's observation that we had not made a decision whether we should be approaching Congress with this issue, and we should trust the discretion of the new Information & Education chair.

ACTION ITEM: Chairman Huff asked the Information & Education Committee to provide the Executive Committee with options at next meeting.

Social and Cultural Environment Surroundings Bison Brucellosis in the GYA Report:

This report by Virginia Ravendal was added to this agenda to make sure everyone was aware of its existence. This was a study contracted by the National Park Service to examine regional cultural perspectives in regard to the brucellosis issues in the GYA. Some recommendations were sent to the researcher. The recommendations do not agree with her original report.

National Academy of Sciences Report:

The NAS report will not be discussed again at this meeting. We are waiting for the final draft which is due within a few weeks. An NAS representative has promised to attend the May 1998 Executive Committee meeting to address our questions (assuming the report is finalized before then).

September Meeting Date

The GYIBC will meet on Thursday, September 17, 1998 at the YCC auditorium in Yellowstone National Park. Chairman Huff will work with Yellowstone National Park staff to identify the appropriate hotel.

Yellowstone Montana Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Wayne Brewster

The Yellowstone/Montana EIS is currently in the third agency review draft. Montana is currently providing comments. A meeting is scheduled in Denver on February 17, 18 & 19th to prepare an agency draft to be ready in the early spring. The next step will be to move towards records of final decision on the EIS.

As far as the interim plan is concerned, some adjustments have been made. The Park initiated hazing as much as possible, this spring the plan is to start the capture and test procedures. Currently there are 20 square miles available for grazing; however, access is weather dependent. Steve Torbit gave an update on the west side of Yellowstone National Park. The Montana Department of Livestock has captured 9 bison, 5 of which tested as reactors and were slaughtered. Some bison have been moved to Horse Butte. Some that were in Cougar Meadows moved out, most have returned to Firehole Meadow. Phil Mamer wondered what we did with the captured bison, are they kept until spring? Tom Roffe said the ones that stay in the park are tested. Phil wondered what other testing is done.

Both Wayne and Steve spoke of the preliminary injunction Judge Lovell has placed on the interim plan. Judge Lovell has issued an order that he wanted the park to evaluate the roads and consider feeding in the park. He also limited the harvest to 100 animals and suggested we look at herd viability to try to come to some conclusions on population. The NPS has put together a report on the advantages and disadvantages of this action. Steve Lewis pointed out that the APHIS plan had left some latitude for decision making with the state veterinarian, which is why some animals have been taken.

Proposed Vaccination on the National Elk Refuge

The Governor of Wyoming requested a major vaccination program be done on the National Elk Refuge. There was discussion of the safety and efficacy of Strain 19. Tom Thorne has done a lot of testing of the Strain 19 vaccine on elk. Phil Mamer asked if there are any other species. Terry Kreeger stated the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is conducting a nontarget species study using moose, pronghorn, deer and bighorn sheep.

Congressional Package Proposal for Funding

Patrick Collins felt there is urgency for a complete budget package to take to congressional members. Chairman Huff asked if someone had made overtures to champion the GYIBC cause. Patrick Collins clarified that there was an opportunity for congressional committee members to entertain our cause. Chairman Huff stated that it would be faster to get a research list together rather than this larger budget package. It was suggested that we look at the Agricultural Subcommittee, the Interior Committee and the delegations from Wyoming, Montana & Idaho. Don Bosman wondered if our focus should be on research. As a group it is difficult to get together a research plan. It seems we need to find out what is there before we can do research. The GYIBC proposal should contain a definitive dollar amount for administration as well as prioritized research goals. Patrick Collins requested that the GYIBC define its goals and make them clear so he can take them to congressional members. Tom Roffe suggested that the proposal should be based on the work done by the Technical Subcommittee. Chairman Huff asked that the Technical Subcommittee massage the research needs along with goals and objectives and put them into a package for Patrick. Those on the Executive Committee will have the responsibility to get with the Technical Subcommittee to assist. Don Bosman remarked that we need a broader scope of research and some understanding of how to put this package together.

Terry Terrell questioned how we prioritize research needs. Tom Roffe mentioned that it had been done already by the Technical Subcommittee, for example, vaccine development would be the top priority. Bill Noblitt suggested that we get the Budget Subcommittee back together along with the Information & Education Subcommittee in order to move forward with this. Don Bosman inquired if we could go forward with a package that states that the GYIBC needs money for administration and research, is it feasible for a potential sponsor. Patrick Collins sees it as feasible. Carole Bolin felt that the GYIBC needs to present the goals and objectives, as well as what it would cost. Other items to include in the package are the agencies involved a time frame and a peer review of the budget. The Technical Subcommittee or Executive Committee could direct the money to specific projects.

Lonn Kuck volunteered to work with Jack Rhyhan as a representative of the research community, however, the group also needs someone to represent the federal agencies and the state governments. Bill Noblitt reminded the group that they will need to do some thinking to put together administrative costs as part of the package. Don Bosman mentioned that the costs had already been worked out. Bill Noblitt felt that whether for planning or the administrative work of this Committee, we need to put together whatever this group thinks is important, however, we should not put administration costs up front. Don Bosman defined the cost of running the GYIBC committee for the plan as close to \$400,000 and requested that the Executive Committee empower the committee of four to submit the package for a quick review. Terry Terrell wanted the package to circulate among the Executive Committee members and require comments by Friday. Chairman Huff noted that there was no NPS person on the committee. The projects were prioritized by the Technical Subcommittee and are therefore agreed to by the NPS. The prioritized projects are ranked, including cost estimates and information about why they are important. Lonn Kuck suggested that the package should be submitted to Patrick for review. Jack Rhyhan agreed to work with Patrick Collins on the package proposal.

It was motioned by Don Bosman that the preparation of a research budget will be submitted to the Executive Committee, complete with an administrative pilot project by a four person committee. John Baughman seconded. Approved by the group.

Phil Mamer inquired about the need for a GYIBC video. Diana Katzenberger mentioned that Patrick Collins would have a better understanding of how a video may be used, since the proposal will be his responsibility. Patrick Collins agreed to sit down and discuss what is needed.

Don Bosman suggested that since the Information and Education Subcommittee is empowered to promote and educate about this proposal, it may be beneficial to tie Patrick Collins to the Information & Education Subcommittee. Patrick Collins mentioned that he couldn't take a high profile role within the group to see that this happens since he is a political appointee. In addition the GYIBC chair and Patrick Collins will work out how to tie his role to the Information and Education Subcommittee. Chairman Huff put forth to the group whether it is appropriate to ask the states to provide parallel support for the package proposals. Patrick Collins felt that is was appropriate. Don Bosman was concerned that the whole thing is unfairly on Patrick Collins' shoulders. The group was reminded that the first line of order is to get the package to a potential supporter, second is the promotion, which should be spearheaded by the Information and Education Subcommittee.

It was moved that by February 23, 1998, the Information & Education Subcommittee will be informed and assist in the education of groups and develop a dissemination strategy that will assist in educating congressional individuals about this proposal.

Steve Lewis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Don Bosman asked Steve Torbit if anything from the meeting, here today would be helpful. Steve affirmed that it was helpful, and mentioned that they can help by congressionally supporting a video. Don Bosman asked Steve if he could take action or are the Non-governmental Organizations going away. Steve added that he could support management directed research and money to support the group, however, more cooperation from GYIBC member agencies is needed, case in point, the interagency lawsuits need to go away.

Public Comments

Jennifer Potratz, Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Bozeman, MT

Would like to see more cooperation in the spirit of interagency cooperation. Daily cooperation should occur, for example the Department of Livestock proposal of a 60 day separation makes no sense. She felt that the Montana Department of Livestock seemed to be the "bully on the block," they, along with the National Park Service need more communication regarding implementation of the interim bison plan.

Date of next Executive Committee meeting Thursday, May 21, 1998 in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Respectfully submitted,
Ramona Hutchinson and Danna Nicole Kinsey
GYIBC Executive Assistants